

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
E	231



n Lexington, Mass.

ress 884 Mass. Ave.

Whitney-Lowe House

sent use private residence

sent owner Edmund P. Hoxie

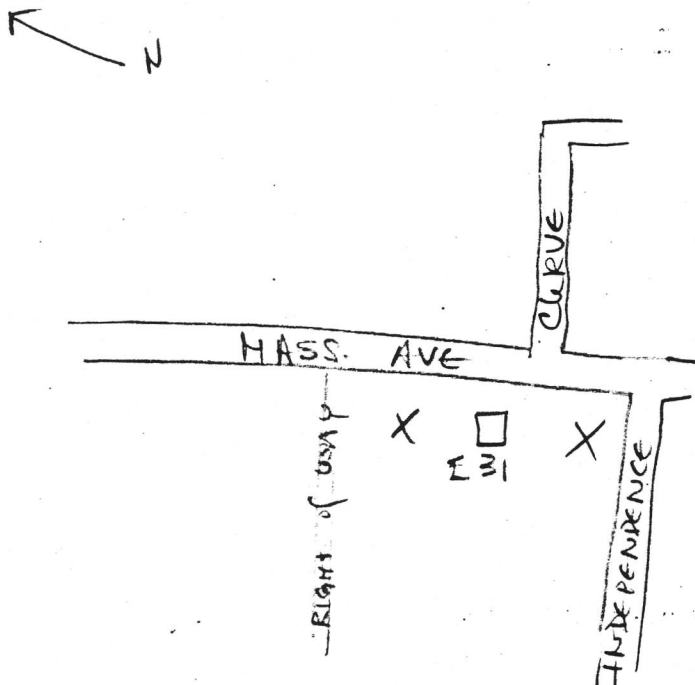
ription:

c. 1830 (betw. 1833 + 1839)

ource Reinhardt 1977, p 31

Federal/Greek Revival

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features 5 bay wide, 1 room deep, granite

foundation; door with sidelights, grk. fret
work, single

Altered Sheds, ell etc. Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 75'

Approximate distance of building from street
15'

6. Recorded by E. W. Reinhardt

Organization Lex. Hist. Com.

Date 7/75

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Eli Whitney

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Humanitarian	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____
Community development	_____				

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Active slaughtering business carried on in the barn at the rear in 19th c.
(contact owner.)

Descrip. cont: simple entablature; 2 story projecting addition w. field-stone foundation right rear; two story ell with door, chimney left rear-3 bays to door, 1 story shed attached to last two bays of ell. Two story barn attached at right angle to rear of ell. Windows 6 x 6.

This was the former home of Charles Herbert Lowe (see Hudson, Volume II), *a butcher* who married Elizabeth Dinwoodie, the daughter of the station agent at the East Lexington Depot (David Dinwoodie). Their daughter, Marion D. Lowe, married Edmund P. Hoxie.

(884 Massachusetts Avenue was not assigned a double number until about 1955.)

Eli Whitney was in business with Michael Horton as cobblers; their shop was situated on the east corner of the lower end of Curve Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

(See Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 39.)

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

231

Property Name: 884 Massachusetts Ave.

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
884 MASS. AVENUE

Area(s) Form No.

E

231

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This is one of a number of Asher Benjamin-inspired doorways which survive in East Lexington (see also 627, 715, 782, 870, and 1106 Massachusetts Avenue). In this case, the doorway design appears to be a fairly literal interpretation of Plate XXVIII of the *Practical House Carpenter*, which Benjamin published in 1830. As Reinhardt and Grady note: "The capitals of the pilasters are simpler, the architrave is narrower and without the three faces proposed by Benjamin, but essentially it is the same design" (Reinhardt & Grady 1977: 31).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This house was reportedly constructed sometime between 1833 and 1839 for Eli Whitney (Reinhardt & Grady, 1977, p. 31). Eli Whitney was married to Sally Locke in 1808 and was a cobbler.

On 1853 map this property appears to be labeled Bennett. The 1860 Census indicates that Prescott Bennett (then 40 years old) was a milkman. He died in 1864.

According to E.B. Worthen, the property was later the house and butcher shop of Charles H. Lowe (b. 1847) who became a resident of Lexington in 1871 (Worthen, p. 45). Lowe is shown as the owner on the 1898 map. Charles Lowe married Mary Goodwin in 1869 and the couple had one son, C. Herbert Lowe (b. 1876) who married Elizabeth Dinwoodie. C. Herbert Lowe is listed as the head of the household in 1920 and lived here with his wife, two sons, father and niece. By 1930 Charles was living here with C. Herbert's widow, Elizabeth. Elizabeth Lowe was still living here in 1942. Elizabeth & C. Herbert's daughter, Marion Lowe, married Edmund Hoxie. Edmund Hoxie continued to own the house until 1980.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*.

Lexington Directories, various dates.

Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reinhardt, Elizabeth and Anne A. Grady. "Asher Benjamin in East Lexington, Massachusetts", *Old-Time New England*, vol. LXVII, nos. 3-4, Winter-Spring 1977, p. 31.

Worthen, Edwin B. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998, p. 46.

Supplement prepared by:
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